



State of Idaho
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Division of Medicaid

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INFORMATIONAL LETTER #96-14

DATE: December 31, 1996
TO: ALL SKILLED NURSING FACILITIES
FROM: JOHN W. HATHAWAY, Chief
Bureau of Facility Standards
SUBJECT: MEDICATION DISTRIBUTION TECHNIQUE

A concern has recently been brought to this office by the Board of Nursing. A complaint was made to them from new graduate nurses that long term care facility staff were signing medications as given at the time of the pour, instead of signing after the resident actually takes the medication. Leola Daniels of the Board of Nursing confirmed that the standard of practice in Idaho remains that no care can be charted before it is actually given.

Upon discussion with survey staff, it was estimated that this inappropriate practice is observed to occur during 50 percent of the medication-pass observations.

The Board has asked us to address this practice issue on survey. Before we begin doing that, however, we want to give all facilities adequate notice so that the practice can be corrected prior to the issuance of deficiencies.

If you have questions regarding this matter, please contact Loretta Todd or Debra Ransom at 334-6626, or the Idaho Board of Nursing at 334-3110.

JOHN W. HATHAWAY, Chief
Bureau of Facility Standards

JWH/nah

cc: Idaho Health Care Association

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